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March 8, 2000

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*Via Hand Carry to Exr. Remy Yucel
Art Unit 1636*

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/177,387; Filed: October 23, 1998
For: **Recombinational Cloning Using Nucleic Acids Having Recombination Sites**
Inventors: HARTLEY *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.2850004/RWE/BJD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Preliminary Amendment; and
2. One return post card.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

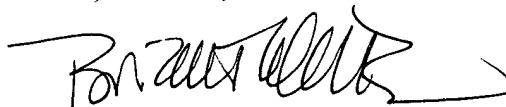
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
March 8, 2000
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian J. Del Buono
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

RWE/BJD/dmb
Enclosures

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

HARTLEY *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/177,387

Filed: October 23, 1998

For: **Recombinational Cloning Using
Nucleic Acids Having
Recombination Sites**

Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: Yucel, I.

Atty. Docket: 0942.2850004/RWE/BJD

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

*Via Hand Carry To Exr. Remy Yucel
Art Unit 1636*

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Sir:

In advance of prosecution of the Continued Prosecution Application filed in the above matter on December 23, 1999, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

Please amend the application as follows: